

QUERIES Relating to the Garbling BILL.

Query I. **I**F the Bill brought in be not much different from the Resolutions of the Honourable House of Commons, the said Resolution being only, that a Bill should be brought in to Regulate the Garbling of such Goods as were for Exportation; and this Bill leaves out many of the Goods enumerated in that Act, and Alters and Lessens the Prices of those that remain therein?

II. Whether as this Bill is now framed, instead of Regulating Abuses as pretended, it doth not lay a Foundation to encourage many more, and greater Abuses, which the former Law effectually prevented, by laying a Penalty and Forfeiture of the Goods upon the Importer, that were sold or used contrary to the direction of that Act; which Forfeitures and Penalties by this Bill are wholly left out?

III. Are not the Alterations now made in the Statute 1 *Jacobi*, the same in Effect, as if that wholesome Law were wholly repealed, and all the Goods by this Bill that are Liable to be Garbled, being to be consumed in *London*, and not otherwise, altho' by the former Acts and Customs it was All Goods sold in *London*, whether Consumed there or in other parts of this Kingdom?

IV. Is the Hire of Labouring Servants, and others imployed to do the Garbling Work, become cheaper now than it was Two hundred Years ago, when those Rates were first established and so continued to this Day, and what reason can be given for Lessening the Ancient Fees and Duties (*Turmeric* always paid 16 *d.* per Cent. Weight for Garbling the same, but now is made 6 *d.* only, and *Ginger* always 12 *d.* is now made 6 *d.* and *Long Pepper* always 16 *d.* now 6 *d.* *Bay Berries* 8 *d.* now 4 *d.* &c.) If no Reason; Why are the Prices Lessened? And why are many of the Spices and Drugs expressly named in the Act of Parliament, which require Garbling, and are daily used in Meats, Drinks and Physicks more than any left out of this Bill, which have always been Garbled time out of mind, and other less useful put in?

V. Is it not manifest that those Alterations are contrived on purpose to discourage the Publick Officer from the due Execution of his Duty, and disable him to pay his Rent of 300 *l.* per Ann. to the City, and 76 *l.* Taxes to the KING, and keep such Number of fit Servants to perform that Work as now is, and hitherto he hath done?

VI. Who is it that pursues this Bill, and promotes those Rates to be set, and Excludes those other Spices and Drugs, &c. from Garbling; and lessens the Ancient Duties constantly paid to the City? Are they not such only who deal in those Commodities, and therefore endeavour to Excuse the Duty for their own Private Interest?

VII. Are not the pursuers of this Bill Freemen of the City, and on their Admission do not they undertake to preserve the Rights and Customs of the City; and if it were not for their own Private Ends, would they Act contrary to their Duties in this case against the Antient Rights of the City, by promoting this Bill by which they will be at liberty to practise what they please, without any Restraint or Penalty from the Law, and the Publick lose many Advantages that arise from the due Execution of this Office, which the City and Kingdom have enjoyed for these 400 Years past to this time, and the present Officer deprived of his Freehold Estate, which he Purchased under an Act of Parliament.

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